

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please kindly cancel claims 1-3, 6, and 9-12, and rewrite Claims 4, 7, and 8 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) An isolated Escherichia coli bacterium ~~belonging to the genus Escherichia~~ which has been constructed from a sucrose non-assimilative Escherichia coli strain ~~belonging to the genus Escherichia~~, wherein the bacterium harboring harbors ~~sucrose non-PTS genes~~ csc genes originating from Escherichia coli comprising ~~at least~~ genes coding for a permease, invertase and fructokinase, and said bacterium having an ability ~~to produce and accumulate~~ to cause accumulation of an amino acid in a medium when the bacterium is cultured in the medium in an amount higher than is produced from a bacterium not harboring said csc genes.

5. (previously cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously amended) The bacterium according to claim 4, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of threonine, homoserine, isoleucine, lysine, valine, and tryptophan.

8. (currently amended) A method for producing an amino acid comprising the steps of cultivating the bacterium according to claims 4, [[6,]] or 7 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the culture medium, and collecting the amino acid from the culture medium.

9-12. (cancelled)